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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Fifteenth session
15 January-2 February 1996

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Report of the Chairperson on the activities undertaken between the fourteenth and the fifteenth sessions of the Committee and consideration of the report of the sixth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly concerning treaty bodies.

4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

7. Results of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

8. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifteenth session.

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ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Opening of the session

The fifteenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by a representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17-22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its fourteenth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its fifteenth session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: working group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee; and working group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies that could make substantive contributions to items under consideration by a working group could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. The working groups will meet during the session.

The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1996/1)

Item 3. Report of the Chairperson on the activities undertaken between the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Committee and consideration of the report of the sixth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies and action taken by the General Assembly concerning treaty bodies

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item to permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson attended the Eighth Meeting of States parties, the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the sixth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, the first common meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other meetings related to the work of the Committee. The Chairperson and the other members of the Committee attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in accordance with Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the sixth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies (A/50/505)

Item 4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its thirteenth session, the Committee decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party to the Convention did not wish to present a report, the Secretariat was authorized to select the report of another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which the report had been received.

At its fourteenth session, the Committee decided to consider at its fifteenth session a total of nine reports of States parties: four initial reports, two second periodic reports, two third periodic reports and one report on an exceptional basis, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports, and the desirability of a balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors.

At its twelfth session, the Committee had decided to set 1 September of the year preceding the session as a formal deadline by which a State party that had been selected by the Committee to present its report should give its agreement in writing, preferably by fax. Any additional written information to be given to the Committee should also be provided no later than 1 September.

At its twelfth session, the Committee also decided that States parties should be offered the opportunity to provide a revised or new report in place of the report(s) already submitted, if the national situation had changed sufficiently to warrant the substitution. If a substitution were made, the

Committee would review only the revised or new report and would disregard the report qualified by the State party as outdated.

At its fifteenth session, the Committee will have before it the following reports submitted by nine States parties, based on consultations by the Secretary-General with the States parties concerned: the combined initial and second periodic reports of Cyprus (CEDAW/C/CYP/1-2), Iceland (CEDAW/C/ICE/1-2) and Paraguay (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2 and Add.1 and 2); the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Ethiopia (CEDAW/C/ETH/1-3 and Add.1); the second periodic report of Belgium (CEDAW/C/BEL/2); the combined second and third periodic report of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3); the third periodic reports of Hungary (CEDAW/C/HUN/3 and Add.1) and Ukraine (CEDAW/C/UKR/3 and Add.1); and a report on an exceptional basis concerning the situation of women in Rwanda (CEDAW/C/RWA/SP.1).

A tentative timetable for the consideration of the reports of States parties by the Committee is given in the proposed organization of work (see annex).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State's report is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its fifteenth session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its fifteenth session will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1996/2).

The Committee had decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. The pre-session working group for the fifteenth session is scheduled to meet in New York from 8 to 12 January 1996.

In the light of its previous work on violence against women, reflected in its general recommendation 19 (eleventh session) and in accordance with article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee, at its fourteenth session, decided to request the State of Rwanda to submit a report or reports on an exceptional basis concerning the situation of women. The Committee will have before it the report of Rwanda submitted on an exceptional basis on that question (CEDAW/C/RWA/SP.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (A/50/346)

Combined initial and second periodic reports of Cyprus (CEDAW/C/CYP/1-2)

Combined initial and second periodic reports of Iceland (CEDAW/C/ICE/1-2)

Combined initial and second periodic reports of Paraguay (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2 and Add.1 and 2)

Combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Ethiopia (CEDAW/C/ETH/1-3 and Add.1)

Second periodic report of Belgium (CEDAW/C/BEL/2)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3)

Third periodic report of Hungary (CEDAW/C/HUN/3 and Add.1)

Third periodic report of Ukraine (CEDAW/C/UKR/3 and Add.1)

Report of Rwanda on an exceptional basis (CEDAW/C/RWA/SP.1)

Item 5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. The Committee at its fifteenth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1996/3 and Add.1-4).

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendation and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

Also at its tenth session, the Committee decided that it should prepare comments on particular articles of the Convention, which would assist in the formulation of the Committee's recommendations relating to those articles.

At its thirteenth session, the Committee considered the draft recommendation on articles 7 and 8 and decided to continue consideration of the draft recommendation at its fourteenth session. At its fourteenth session, the Committee decided to postpone consideration of the draft recommendation on articles 7 and 8 but to continue its consideration at the fifteenth session. The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretariat prepared for the thirteenth session (CEDAW/C/1994/4).

At its twelfth session, the Committee agreed to begin with the preparation of a general recommendation on article 4 and to analyse article 2 of the Convention at its fourteenth session, including reservations that had been made to it. At its fourteenth session the Committee decided to postpone the consideration of the analysis of article 2 and to continue its consideration at its fifteenth session. The Committee will have before it the report of the Secretariat prepared for the fourteenth session (CEDAW/C/1995/4).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1996/3)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1996/3/Add.1)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/1996/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1996/3/Add.3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1996/3/Add.4)

Report of the Secretariat on the analysis of articles 7 and 8 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1994/4)

Report of the Secretariat on the analysis of article 2 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1995/4)

Item 6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee, or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime.

At its thirteenth session, the Committee recommended a number of actions directed at improving the effectiveness of its work. In view of the time constraints at its fourteenth session, the Committee decided to defer the review of the rules of procedure, including the role of non-governmental organizations. It also decided to defer the issue concerning links with the focal points on the human rights of women of the Centre for Human Rights. Both issues will be taken up at the fifteenth session.

The Committee will have before it at its fifteenth session a report of the Secretariat on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1996/6).

Documentation

Report by the Secretariat on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1996/6)

Item 7. Results of the Fourth World Conference on Women and follow-up

As a result of the Fourth World Conference on Women the Platform for Action makes several recommendations to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, particularly paragraphs 127, 230 (i), 230 (j), 233 (a), 322, 323, and 325 (A/CONF.177/20, chap. I, resolution 1, annex II).

Item 8. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session. It also decided that at each session:

(a) It would set a programme for the following two or three sessions, which could be reviewed and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) It would select one or more articles or subjects for study;

(c) The Secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document to be considered by the Committee in its examination of the articles or subjects concerned.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Committee

Item 9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifteenth session

Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

Annex

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Date		Agenda item
Monday, 15 January 1996		
285th meeting 10.30 a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the session
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		Composition of Working Groups I and II, mandate for Working Groups I and II
	Item 3	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Committee and consideration of the report of the sixth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies
286th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention
	Item 6	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee
	Item 7	Results of the Fourth World Conference on Women
Tuesday, 16 January 1996		
287th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
		Cyprus, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CYP/1-2)
		Introduction by State party's representative
		Questions by experts

Note. The rooms in which meetings will take place will be indicated in the daily Journal.

288th meeting 3 p.m	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Cyprus, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CYP/1-2) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II
Wednesday, 17 January 1996		
289th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Paraguay, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2 and Add.1 and 2) Introduction by State party's representative Questions by experts
290th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Paraguay, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2 and Add.1 and 2) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Thursday, 18 January 1996		
291st meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Iceland, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ICE/1-2) Introduction by State party's representative Questions by experts

292nd meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Iceland, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ICE/1-2) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Friday, 19 January 1996		
293rd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Ethiopia, combined initial, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ETH/1-3 and Add.1) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
294th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Ethiopia, combined initial, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ETH/1-3 and Add.1) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Monday, 22 January 1996		
295th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Cuba, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts

296th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Cuba, combined second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3) (continued)
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Tuesday, 23 January 1996		
297th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Cyprus)
298th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Paraguay)
Wednesday, 24 January 1996		
299th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Iceland)
300th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Ethiopia)
Thursday, 25 January 1996		
10 a.m	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments (initial reports)
3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments (initial reports)

Friday, 26 January 1996		
301st meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Belgium, second periodic report (CEDAW/C/BEL/2) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
302nd meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Belgium, second periodic report (CEDAW/C/BEL/2) (continued) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Monday, 29 January 1996		
303rd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Ukraine, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/UKR/3 and Add.1) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
304th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Ukraine, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/UKR/3 and Add.1) (continued)
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)

Tuesday, 30 January 1996		
305th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Hungary, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/HUN/3 and Add.1) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
306th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Hungary, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/HUN/3 and Add.1) (continued)
	Items 5, 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Wednesday, 31 January 1996		
10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments (second and third reports)
3 p.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments (second and third reports)
Thursday, 1 February 1996		
307th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 4	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Rwanda, report submitted on an exceptional basis (CEDAW/C/RWA/SP.1) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts

308th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Report of Working Group I (continued)
	Items 5 and 7	Report of Working Group II (concluded)
	Item 8	Draft provisional agenda for the sixteenth session

Friday, 2 February 1996

309th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 9	Adoption of the report (continued)
310th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 9	Adoption of the report (concluded)